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HUNT FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$250,000 TO TEACH FOR AMERICA TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

Funds to Help Teach For America Expand Partnerships With Local Communities and Increase the Number of Teachers in High-Need Schools in Southern New Mexico

LAS CRUCES, N.M., August 5, 2014—Teach For America–New Mexico announced today that it received a \$250,000 charitable donation from the Hunt Family Foundation of El Paso, Texas. Funds will be used to recruit, train, and develop teachers to work in high-need schools in southern New Mexico and surrounding communities and support efforts to expand educational opportunities in the Borderlands.

Teach For America recruits top college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong advocates for educational equity. Some 78 Teach For America corps members and nearly 180 alumni—including 35 teachers and 19 school or district leaders—work in New Mexico. Corps members are teaching in more than 52 schools in eight districts statewide.

“Research has confirmed that teacher quality is the biggest in-school determinant for student performance and aspirational pursuits within education,” said Woody L. Hunt, chairman of the Hunt Family Foundation. “In turn, we know that an excellent education enables our young people to seize college and career opportunities that will help ensure economic success for more families in the Borderlands. Teach For America can play a key role in expanding educational opportunities by providing an additional source of excellent teachers.”

The Hunt Family Foundation, a private family foundation founded in 1987 by Woody Hunt and his wife Gayle, supports not-for-profit organizations and initiatives that focus on the Paso del Norte region, which includes El Paso County, Texas; Doña Ana County, New Mexico; Otero County, New Mexico; and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México. The Foundation also supports organizations whose programs impact the state of Texas and the nation as a whole. Charitable giving is focused on healthcare, education, arts, local heritage, quality-of-life initiatives, and regional economic development.

Through increased recruitment of bilingual teachers and educators with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, Teach For America–New Mexico is committed to providing effective teachers who share the background and experiences of students and families in southern New Mexico. Teach For America began working in southern New Mexico in 2012, partnering with communities in Alamogordo, Las Cruces, and Gadsden to provide an additional source of teaching talent to meet the unique needs of students in border communities.

“We’re thrilled to receive support from the Hunt Family Foundation that will enable us to meet the needs of local communities in our partnerships with districts,” said Nate Morrison, executive director of Teach For America–New Mexico. “We are thankful to be part of broader efforts to expand educational opportunity and excellence for local students in southern New Mexico.”

Research indicates that Teach For America corps members have a positive effect on student achievement. Between 2009 and 2013, statewide studies in [North Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#), and [Louisiana](#) concluded that Teach For America is among each state's top teacher-preparation programs. A [recent Mathematica study](#) found that, on average, students taught by Teach For America teachers gained an additional 2.6 months of learning in math annually.

About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Our corps in the 2013-14 school year included 11,000 teachers in 48 urban and rural regions across the country. Today, our 37,000 alumni are working across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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